

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 19 are pending in this application.

The Office Action objects to claims 5-17 under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being in improper form for referring to other claims other than in the alternative and for depending from other multiple dependent claims. In response, the applicant has amended claims 4-17 to eliminate multiple dependencies and insure that each claim is dependent upon a single claim only. The applicant submits that claims 5-17 are now in condition for treatment on the merits.

The Office Action rejects claim 19 under 35 USC §112 paragraph 2 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the fluid delivery path" in the claim. In response, the applicant has amended claim 19 so that the limitation "the fluid delivery path" now reads "a fluid delivery path".

THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a secure storage cabinet storing a plurality of cash cassettes for use within automatic teller machines (ATMs). The cabinet can be docked with an ATM without exposing the cassettes, so that the cassettes are always protected. The cassettes are always within a secure environment when being transported and exchanged. While inside the cabinet, a spoiling ink delivery system protects the cassettes. The spoiling ink delivery system spoils the contents of the cassettes in the event of a security breach, e.g., the door of the cabinet being opened in an unauthorized manner. When a cassette is loaded into the cabinet, a connector of the cassette engages with a connector of the spoiling ink delivery system of the cabinet in such a way as to displace foreign matter from a fluid flow path between the connectors, ensuring a fluid flow path that is free from obstruction. The cabinet further comprises a pick unit so that the whole

cabinet can be inserted into the ATM, and the cabinet remains in the ATM during use of the ATM.

THE PRIOR ART

WO 93/02435 discloses a dispensing machine (such as an ATM) in which a number of cash cassettes may be stored and connected to a single spoiling ink delivery system (see page 5, lines 21-25, and page 15, lines 21-23). Each cassette comprises a hole through which a nozzle may be inserted. The nozzle includes a conical tip to provide a fluid sealed path between the deliver system and the contents of the cassette (see page 19, lines 9-13).

(1) The document does not describe a security cabinet containing a plurality of cash cassettes, which is dockable with an ATM for the secure exchange of cassettes. Instead, it describes an ATM that contains a plurality of cassettes.

On page 15, lines 23-25, the document discloses that the ATM is housed within a secure environment, such as a bank. Therefore, a secure exchange of ATM cash cassettes, for example, using a security cabinet according to the present invention, is not necessary. Furthermore, when the door of the ATM is open and the ATM is being loaded, the cash cassettes are not protected by the ATM spoiling fluid delivery system (see page 17, line 19-23). Thus the cassettes are both exposed and unprotected (although the ATM is in an allegedly secure environment). The present invention assumes that the ATM is within a non-secure environment. Thus, a security cabinet that is dockable with an ATM for exchanging cash cassettes, ensures that the cassettes are not exposed at any point.

*security cabinet
&
ATM
Two ATM
inclusively
has a
housing
with slot
in sec. cabinet*

CLAIMS 18 & 19; NOVELTY REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claims 18 and 19 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 93/02435. According to the Action, this document discloses a system that satisfies each and every one of the limitations of both claims 18 and 19.

(2) Claim 18, as amended, relates to a cabinet being dockable with the ATM for delivering cash from containers in the cabinet to the ATM. WO 93/02435 does not disclose or suggest how cassettes are to be loaded into the ATM. The Action refers to page 16, lines 11-28, alleging that this passage describes cash being delivered to the ATM without opening the ATM. However, a careful reading of the passage reveals that it merely describes use of the ATM in normal operation to remove cash from the ATM. Thus, WO 93/02435 does not anticipate claim 18.

Claim 19 relates to a security cabinet containing cash cassettes, wherein connectors between the cabinet and a cash cassette displace foreign matter out of the way when the connectors are brought together, for example, when loading the cassette into the cabinet. The Examiner refers to page 19, lines 9-13, and states that the structure described in this passage acts as seal keeping foreign matter out. While the applicant does not dispute this, it's difficult to see how this anticipates claim 19 as the passage referred to merely describes a seal and not an arrangement that displaces foreign matter. The document doesn't consider foreign matter being present when the nozzle is brought into contact with the hole. As such, the applicant maintains that WO 93/02435 does not anticipate claim 19.

*displace
fr. matt out of
a fluid deliv
path
- structure
performs meas
function*

CLAIMS 1-4; OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 93/02435. Regarding claim 1, the Office Action indicates that WO 93/02435 discloses all the limitations of this claim except for the cabinet further including a pick unit for the dispensing machine such that the mobile security cabinet can

be engaged with a dispensing machine without exposing the containers. According to the Action, the pick unit is a known component, and it would have been obvious to provide WO 93/02435 with the pick unit "to provide easier access when servicing the cabinet".

Claim 1 of the present invention relates to a security cabinet for engagement with an ATM, where the cabinet contains cash cassettes and includes a pick unit so that the whole cabinet may be inserted into the ATM. The ATM may then remove cash from the cash cassettes via the pick unit. Thus, the cash cassettes are contained at all times within the security cabinet. WO 93/02435 does not describe an ATM having such a removable cabinet. It does not describe how the cash cassettes are to be loaded into the ATM. The document assumes that the ATM is within a secure environment, so keeping the cash cassettes secure when loading the ATM is unnecessary. The Examiner alleges that it would be obvious to include a pick unit with WO 93/02435, which would then result in the present invention. However, the document does not describe a removable cabinet containing cash cassettes, and thus inclusion of a pick unit would not result in the present invention.

In addition, according to prevailing case law, to support an obviousness finding, it is incumbent upon an Examiner to identify in the prior art or general knowledge some teaching or suggestion that would motivate one skilled in the art to combine the references as the Examiner has suggested. Here, rather than identify a teaching or suggestion, the Examiner instead identifies an advantage: "to provide easier access when servicing the cabinet". The Applicant maintains that an obviousness finding cannot be supported merely by identifying or thinking up potential advantage that might be realized by the combination or modification. Indeed, if that was all the law required, virtually all inventions would be considered obvious since most inventions are combinations or existing technology that realize some advantage over the prior art. (3) *Not advantage modification*

For these reasons, the Applicant maintains that Claim 1 is patentable over WO 93/02435.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The Applicant maintains that Claims 2-17, as amended, are allowable because they depend from an allowable base claim.

PRIOR ART NOT RELIED UPON

According to the Action, the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. However, the Action does not provide any substantive reasons. The Applicant maintains that the claims of the present invention (as amended) are novel and patentable over these citations. U.S. 5,787,819, U.S. 5,598,793, and U.S. 6,453,828 all relate to an ATM containing a plurality of cash cassettes connected to a single spoiling ink delivery system. These references do not describe the use of a security cabinet containing a plurality of cash cassettes, the cabinet being dockable with or insertable into the ATM. These references also do not describe a system whereby connectors between the cabinet and the cash cassettes displace foreign matter when they are brought together.

U.S. 4,363,279 and U.S. 5,615,625 describe a security box that must be docked in a docking station for cash to be inserted into the box. The box has a spoiling ink delivery system integrated therein. The documents do not describe the use of ATMs, or a security cabinet for the secure transport of a plurality of cash cassettes.

CONCLUSION

The applicant maintains that, as amended, claims 1-19 are in allowable form.

I authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 59-0852. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

REISING, ETHINGTON, BARNES, KISSELLE, P.C.

Eric T. Jones / Reg. No. 40,037
P.O. Box 4390
Troy, Michigan 48099-4390
(248) 689-3500

Date: July 7, 2003